BENGALURU, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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Depp's pet dog mauls 2 sheep

Hollywood star Johnny Depp's rescue dog has landed him in trouble. The dog reportedly mauled two sheep to death.

The actor, 62, has rented a mansion in East Sussex and his pet is said to have launched the attack after escaping during a country-side walk close to the star's home, reports 'Female First UK'.

Johnny was not at home at the time of the incident but has since hired a professional trainer and introduced "all extra precautions"

to prevent a repeat of the incident, in which his bullmastiff, named Bourbon, reportedly broke free from a handler before attacking the animals.

Sheep owner Joe Ginger told 'The Sun', "I take my work and my sheep very seriously, it is my business. It is a serious matter".

A source also told the publication, "Johnny was not at the house at the time, and his aide was walking the dog. He broke free and went after the sheep. Two were killed. It was all very traumatic".

As per 'Female First UK', the incident is understood to have taken place on farmland neighbouring Johnny's country property, which he is believed to be renting for around $16000 a month. Mr Ginger is said to be "understandably furious". **–IANS**

Always pan-India

South actresses who ruled Bollywood even before pan-India was a thing

Rekha

Rekha has been the charmer of Bollywood, from taking up roles that broke the stereotype to mesmerizing the audience with her beauty, she was one the best actors of her time. Born in Chennai, Rekha began with modest roles in the late '60s but emerged as a Bollywood fashion and performance icon in the '70s. Films like 'Do Anjaane' 'Ghar', and 'Muqaddar Ka Sikandar' proved her incredible acting range and magnetism.

Vyjayanthimala

Although her Bollywood prime was in the 50s and 60s, Vyjayanthimala continued to shine in the early 70s with films like 'Ganwaar'. An actress who was also an excellent classical dancer became a pathway of inspiration for many emerging actors. Regarded as one of Hindi cinema's finest actresses and dancers, she is the recipient of several accolades, including four Filmfare Awards and two BFJA Awards.

Hema Malini

She has earned the title of Bollywood's 'dream girl' for a good reason. A magnetic beauty and an energetic performer, she was the unquestionable queen of her day. Even though she was born in Tamil Nadu, Hema Malini became the consummate Bollywood star of the '70s. From 'Seeta Aur Geeta' to 'Sholay,' her beauty, art of classical dancing, and her flexibility made her one of the most bankable and beloved actresses of her day.

Padmini

Padmini was born in Thiruvananthapuram, Travancore (currently Kerala), and she was one of the "Travancore Sisters" with her fellow dancers and actresses Lalitha and Ragini. Her work in Mera Naam Joker was unparalleled, blending depth and grace.

Jayasudha

Jayasudha, primarily acknowledged for her work in Telugu cinema, did a few Hindi films in the 70s, like 'Shayer-e-Kashmir Mahjoor'. Though her stint was short, her screen presence and emotive depth were noticed. She has also worked with Amitabh Bachchan in the classic movie 'Suryavansham; she played Big B's mother. **–ETimes**

Sister's precious birthday wish

Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor on the occasion of her birthday on Sunday received a special wish from her sister Karisma Kapoor.

Karisma shared an adorable picture with "precious sister" Kareena and wrote, "Best sister, Best friends and Beyond..Happy birthday to my most precious sister.. Love you mostest"

After her post, several other celebrity friends, family members and fans extended heartfelt birthday wishes.

While Saba Pataudi, Riddhima Kapoor, and Bhumi Pednekar dropped heart emojis, one of the social media users wrote, "Favourite Kapoor sister forever ever ever happy Birthday to the one and only my favourite Kareena Kapoor Khan gorgeous lady in the world"

Kareena Kapoor, daughter of actors Randhir Kapoor and Babita, made her Bollywood debut in 2000 with the film Refugee and has since established herself as one of the leading actresses of the industry with hits like Jab We Met, 3 Idiots, and Tanu Weds Manu.

She will be next seen sharing screen space with Prithviraj Sukumaran in Meghna Gulzar's 'Daayra'.In April, they all met for a brief meeting and officially announced the film. Excited to work with "dream team", Kareena on Instagram wrote,"I've always said that I'm a director's actor... and this time I cannot wait to work with one of the finest director's we have, @meghnagulzar and alongside the magnificent @ therealprithvi, whose work I deeply admire..." **–ANI**

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Group-funded movie

The movie Rona with debutant Raghurajananda in a lead role has chosen the crowdfunding route. Encouraged by the response to the motion poster of the movie, the team unveiled the movie's teaser recently. Sateesh Kumar, who worked as associate director for Kerebete, makes debut as an independent director with this movie.

"My passion towards movies and theater since my high school days made me get basic training in acting. This movie is bankrolled by my friends and myself through group funding. We wrapped up shooting of the movie a few weeks ago and its post-productions works are also completed," said Raghurajananda. Prakruthi Prasad is the female lead while veteran actor Sharat Lohitashwa plays the father character in the movie.

"The director organised a 30-day workshop for us before the movie went on floors. I play an educated youth who makes an attempt to fix civic problems in his hometown," he said.

Self-defence technique

Director Narayana Pujara has come out with a movie that aims to create awareness among women on how to use self-defence techniques during emergencies. Pujara's film Karasthra that is scheduled for release on September 26 is bankrolled by him under the Sri Sivasakthi Cinicombines banner. The movie's trailer and motivational song were unveiled at Renukamba Preview Theater on Saturday.

On the occasion, director-cum-producer Narayana Pujar said the movie highlights the importance of self-defence skills for women. "I am from Byadagi in Haveri. I came to Bengaluru in 2006 to realise my dream of becoming an actor. I got basic training under the guidance of director Guru Deshpande and also acted in the movie Horata but it was not released," said Pujara. He said he has used talented actors from North Karnataka for this movie. "Apart from handling the megaphone and bankrolling the movie, I also play a character in the movie," he said.

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NICE LAND GRAB

Security officer files complaint about group trying to illegally claim patch of land allotted for Bangalore–Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project

PAGE 3

NO WAY TO GO

Despite agencies spending crores of rupees towards construction of ponds, idols keep getting immersed in newly rejuvenated lake

PAGE 5

168 hospitals and 17 waste treatment facilities in state found to be in violation of biomedical waste management rules in last 1 year; unscientific dumping rampant in absence of monitoring mechanism, say experts

MEDICALLY UNFIT

46% of this waste generated in state comes from Bengaluru

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In the last one year, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has served notice to 155 healthcare facilities across the state for violating the Bio-Medical Waste Management (BMWM) Rules, 2016.

These notices were issued between January and December 2024, after the Board found 168 hospitals in violation of the rule. That apart, as many as 17 Common Bio-Medical Waste Treatment Facilities were also served with show cause notices for not managing the waste properly.

Experts say while unscientific dumping of this hazardous waste is going on rampantly, monitoring has been shifted to the back burner, leading to many violations. Nonetheless, 155 show-cause notices issued by KSPCB are not even the tip of the iceberg, they say.

"If monitoring is done strictly, this number will be much higher. Many healthcare facilities not following BMW rules implies that a considerable amount of this hazardous waste is still reaching landfills, becoming the primary source of water contamination and thus posing health risks," said a solid waste management expert.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6»

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

"Many healthcare facilities not following BMW rules implies that a considerable amount of this hazardous waste is still reaching landfills, becoming the primary source of water contamination and thus posing health risks

—Solid waste management expert

Jail brawl raises security question

Inmates had access to sharp objects that police say they could have fashioned from material available to them

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A violent clash inside the Parappana Agrahara Central Prison last week has once again raised troubling questions about security lapses at Karnataka's largest jail. Despite being a high-security facility where inmates' movements are monitored round-the-clock, prisoners managed to launch a brutal assault with a sharp weapon, leaving several injured.

According to a complaint filed by Superintendent of Central Prison through jailer Mallikarjun Rao, the fight broke out around 2 pm near the staircase of Tower-2 in B Barrack. Four inmates, Suleman Sharif, Anwar Khan, Wasim, and Dastagir, allegedly confronted and attacked three others, Naveen, Amaresh, and Nitin. The accused are three undertrials facing pending criminal cases and one convicted prisoner serving a sentence.

The issue was triggered over a minor provocation while climbing the stairs. Naveen suffered deep cuts on both sides of his neck and near his ear, while Amaresh sustained an elbow injury. Even one of the accused, Suleman Sharif, was hurt during the brawl. Prison staff rushed to the spot,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Art exploration

Mythic Matrices, a landmark solo exhibition by acclaimed contemporary artist Seema Kohli, presented by the National Gallery of Modern Art, offers a focused retrospective of 20 pivotal years from Kohli's expansive practice. **Where: National Gallery of Modern Art, Vasanth Nagar; When: August 26 to September 26**

02 Cultural voyage

As part of its continued effort to showcase Karnataka's rich heritage and bring cultural experiences closer to travellers and the community, Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru is hosting a week-long Nadahabba Dasara celebration, showcasing the state's folk, classical, and traditional art forms. **Where: Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru – T1 Kerbside, T1 Arrivals Kerbside & T2 Arrivals Forecourt; When: September 22 to 29**

03 Shopping spree

Our Better Planet is organising Conscious Souk – a thoughtfully curated sustainable shopping experience celebrating home grown brands from across the country. The event features sarees, jewellery, apparel, home decor, gifts and much more. **Where: Raintree, Sankey Road; When: September 26 and 27, 11 am**

04 Musical milestone

Raghu Dixit will be taking the stage for a spectacular Silver Jubilee celebration of timeless tunes and unforgettable performances. From folk soul to rock fusion, the performance is set to take the audience on a melodious journey. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: October 11, 7 pm**

05 Story goes on

Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru is all set to transport visitors into a boundless universe of stories, ideas, and creativity, where imagination breathes through every page, conversation, and corner through their 'The Big Bangalore Book Fest'. **Where: Bhartiya Mall of Bengaluru, Thanisandra Main Road; When: September 11 to 28**

Sacred remembrance

Large groups of devotees gathered in Chickpet to perform Shraddha and Tarpanam rituals as part of Pitru Paksha observances on Mahalaya Amavasya—a sacred day in Hindu tradition dedicated to honouring ancestors

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

AI enters the fields

Artificial Intelligence is no longer confined to tech and engineering—it is now ploughing its way into agriculture. Bengaluru Agricultural University has made AI a compulsory non-credit course for all BSc Agriculture and postgraduate students from this academic year. Students must complete a six-month module covering Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Big Data Analysis to be eligible for their degree certificates. Vice Chancellor Dr SP Suresh said the initiative is aimed at equipping students with future-ready skills. **— BMB**

Caste survey to begin from today

Enumerators are expected to survey 7 to 8 houses per day, and with this pace, statewide data is envisioned to be collected within 16 days using specially developed mobile application

The Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes is set to begin its comprehensive Socio-Economic and Educational Survey across the state from Monday, September 22. According to Commission Chairman Madhusudan R Naik, groundwork has already been completed, including the listing of around 2 crore households, geo-tagging, and mapping of enumeration blocks to facilitate smooth execution of the survey.

Speaking at a press conference held at the Devaraj Urs Bhavan in Vasanthnagar, Naik explained that the survey aims to collect data on the social, economic, and educational status of all citizens in Karnataka. Each enumerator will be assigned a block comprising approximately 140–150 houses, and around 2 lakh personnel, including school teachers and other government staff, will be involved in data collection and supervisory roles. Department officials will oversee the entire operation.

Enumerators are expected to survey 7 to 8 houses per day, and with this pace, data from the entire state's households can be collected within 16 days through a specially developed mobile application. The survey app is equipped with advanced software to gather detailed family data, including Aadhaar-based verification and auto-population of ration card details, streamlining the process and saving time.

Citizens can find more information at Commission's official website: https://kscbc.karnataka.gov.in, or call helpline 8050770004 for assistance

Mandatory Aadhaar; 60 questions to be asked

Surveyors and supervisors have undergone the necessary training. The questionnaire includes 60 fields, covering various aspects of individuals and households. To avoid duplicate entries, submission of Aadhaar numbers is mandatory for all citizens aged above 6 years. If a family holds a ration card, its number can be entered to automatically retrieve associated information. For those family members living away for work, provisions have been made to collect their data online through Aadhaar verification.

No new caste creation, says Commission

Addressing potential concerns and controversies, Naik clarified that the Commission has not created any new caste categories. Instead, a pre-existing list of castes, as documented in previous records, has been made available in drop-down format on the mobile app purely for the convenience of enumerators. This list is not a public document and holds no legal validity. Its purpose is solely to help field workers identify castes more easily. After the survey, the Commission will analyse the collected data scientifically and submit a report with recommendations to the government regarding potential support for various caste and community groups.

Clarification on religion & caste

To address misinformation and public anxiety, the Commission stated that the selection of religion, caste, and sub-caste is entirely voluntary and based on what families report. In some cases where caste names in the drop-down list have caused confusion, those names have been disabled, and citizens can manually enter their caste if they wish. To overcome difficulties in KYC (Know Your Customer) verification, a face recognition system has also been introduced. **— BMB**

2nd National Cultural Pythian Games to be held in Bengaluru in November

The 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games 2025 will be held from November 7 to 9, 2025, at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium, bringing together a unique celebration of arts, culture, traditional games, and sports. The Governor of Karnataka will be the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

The Pythian Games trace their origin to ancient Greece, where they stood alongside the Olympic Games as one of the four Panhellenic festivals. Unlike the Olympics which focused on athleticism, the Pythian Games were the oldest cultural games of the world, dedicated to the god Apollo and celebrated through music, poetry, dance, theatre, and artistic performances.

Speaking ahead of the event, Bijender Goel, Founder of the Modern Pythian Games, said that the Pythian Games are not just an event, but a global movement. He said it creates a bridge between

ancient traditions and modern aspirations. "By bringing together artists, performers, players of indigenous and traditional games, and youth from across India, we aim to position our country as a cultural leader on the world stage. The Games offer a billion-euro global market in art, culture, and creative economy – and India must claim its rightful place in it," noted Goel.

BH Anil Kumar, Organising Chairman, expressed that hosting the 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games is a moment of pride for Karnataka. "This will not only boost the state's cultural prestige but also promote our tourism, local economy, and international recognition. Bengaluru, as India's technology and culture hub, is the perfect stage for this grand celebration," said Kumar.

Sneha Venkatramani, Organising Secretary and renowned Bharatanatyam Guru, remarked that the Pythian Games are a blessing for artists and players of indigenous games. "They give equal respect to both cultural expression and traditional sports, opening opportunities for recognition, collaboration, and growth," she said, adding that for Karnataka's artists and youth, this is a historic chance to shine on a national platform.

The 2nd National Cultural Pythian Games will feature over 30 events across arts, culture, games, martial arts, and cricket. **— BMB**

'Say no to flowers and shawls, gift knowledge instead'

Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) has issued a strong advisory to its affiliated colleges to do away with the customary practice of presenting flowers, shawls, and ceremonial gifts during academic and cultural events. The university noted that while such gestures are seen as symbols of respect, they serve no lasting purpose and often result in unnecessary expenditure. Instead, RGUHS has emphasised that the focus should be on promoting knowledge, which is the true spirit of education and academia.

Colleges have been instructed to replace bouquets and other formalities with meaningful alternatives such as medical books. These books, the university suggests, can be gifted to guest speakers, faculty, or even directly to students. Importantly, the books may also be donated to college libraries, ensuring that they remain accessible to a larger number of students for years to come. In cases where the books are given away, priority should be given to underprivileged and deserving students who may otherwise struggle to afford them. **— BMB**

Techie's traffic tax post hits raw nerve

A Bengaluru techie's online post on what he terms the city's "traffic tax" has gone viral, striking a chord with thousands of daily commuters who share the same frustration.

The post, published on Reddit, highlights how severe congestion is eroding both time and productivity.

The tech professional, who lives in JP Nagar and commutes to his office on Outer Ring Road, wrote that despite the 14-kilometre distance, his daily travel takes nearly 90 minutes each way.

What should ideally be a 30-minute ride stretches into three hours of daily commuting, translating to an estimated loss of two-and-a-half months of productive work time each year.

The employee, who earns Rs 28 lakh annually excluding RSUs, drew a parallel between the hours lost in traffic and the taxes he pays. He noted shelling out Rs 6.5 lakh in income tax and Rs 1.4 lakh in GST annually, together amounting to more than three months' worth of work.

"The first two taxes were meant to build better roads, smoother commutes, and smarter cities. But planning went wrong. The money often went elsewhere. Ending up paying the hidden tax, not even having time to look back and introspect," he wrote.

The post has sparked an animated debate online. Many residents pointed out the toll that gridlock and rising air pollution take on health, efficiency, and quality of life. "If you put an engineer working in Bengaluru in any foreign city with cleaner air and no traffic, they will become 20 per cent more efficient," one user remarked, adding that frequent illness, cough, and sneezing have become common for families living in the city.

Beyond frustration, several comments touched on broader policy failures. Users questioned why large companies continue to be concentrated in Bengaluru, arguing that governments should redirect investments to tier-2 cities to reduce pressure on the city's fragile infrastructure.

Others criticised the government for prioritising freebies while neglecting road quality, highlighting the double burden of traffic delays and damage to vehicles from pothole-ridden stretches. **BMB**

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NICE officer alleges multi-crore land grab fraud, police inaction

According to complaint some people are illegally claiming ownership of land earmarked for Bangalore–Mysore Infra Corridor project using forged documents

Atiya Firdos
c-syeda.atiya@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A major land scam involving forged Aadhaar records, fabricated grants, and alleged collusion of senior officials has come to light, with a formal complaint filed to the Director General & Inspector General of Police, Karnataka by CA Siddalingaiah, a retired police inspector and currently Field Security Officer at Nandi Economic Corridor Enterprises Ltd. (NICE).

The complaint alleges attempts by certain individuals to illegally claim ownership of land earmarked for the Bangalore–Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Project (BMICP).

According to Siddalingaiah, the land in Survey No. 86, Kodigehalli village, Bengaluru North, covering 79 acres and 7 guntas, was lawfully transferred to NICE by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) under a 1999 government order, followed by a possession certificate in 2000 and a registered lease deed in 2002.

Despite these established records, Siddalingaiah's representation claims that KV Chandran, MP Devaraj, MS Prasad, MS Divya, and Krishne Gowda fabricated ownership documents, including a forged Aadhaar card and fictitious land grant records dating back to 1954–55. The complaint highlights that Chandran was not even born at the time the grant was allegedly issued.

He also pointed to a 2010 probe by Special Deputy Commissioner Ramanjaneya, which had declared such grants bogus, citing alterations and insertions in official land registers.

FILE PHOTO

Despite this, in 2025, Special DC Vasanti Amar allegedly passed an order favouring the accused, effectively legitimising the forged records. Amar is now facing corruption cases in connection with the order, according to the complaint.

The representation further alleges that in April and May 2025, the accused arrived at the property with 25–30 hired rowdies and heavy machinery, attempting to trespass and intimidate NICE staff.

Supporting documents submitted with the complaint include the forged Aadhaar, genuine date of birth records, General Power of Attorney and sale agreements, government orders, and video evidence of trespass incidents.

'Complaint lodged but no action'

Adding to the controversy, Siddalingaiah stated that no action has been taken after a formal complaint along with full evidence was lodged at Byadarahalli Police Station on September 11, with police issuing only an endorsement instead of registering an FIR.

"This refusal to act on a cognisable offence amounts to deliberate shielding of offenders," the retired officer said in his representation.

The letter urges the DG & IGP to take immediate action on multiple fronts, including directing Byadarahalli Police to register an FIR under the Aadhaar Act, IPC/BNS, and other relevant laws.

It also asks that a departmental inquiry be initiated against officers who failed to act on the complaint, ensure police protection for NICE to prevent further trespass and threats, and refer the case to the CBI for an independent probe into the alleged nexus between the land mafia and police officers, and holding accountable any officials found complicit in suppressing the case.

He stressed that the matter involves serious forgery, land grabbing, and collusion, demanding urgent and impartial investigation. No FIR has been registered as of yet.

Family assaults, publicly humiliates inter-faith couple

Public outrage and tension erupted in Indira Nagar Layout, Kanakapura, on Saturday after a woman and her male friend from a different community were assaulted by her own family in a shocking case of moral policing.

The couple was beaten, their heads partially shaved, and humiliated in full public view before police intervened. Five of the seven accused have been arrested under various sections of the BNS. The victim, Asin, married for 15 years and mother of a son, had separated from her husband six months ago after he discovered her relationship with a fisherman, Mahesh. After the separation, Asin continued to meet Mahesh, and on Friday, her family reportedly caught the couple at Mahesh's friend's house.

The enraged relatives dragged them onto the street, assaulted them with slippers, and partially tonsured their heads. Police arrested Sheikh Kabeer, Suhail Shariff, Syed Nayaz, Nawaz Khan, Sajida Begum, and Syeda. Female members of the family were questioned, and their statements recorded.

Authorities deployed additional forces as a precaution and held a peace meeting with the families and community members to ensure law and order. **BMB**

Labourer dies in fall from second floor at under-construction house

A labourer died on the spot after falling from the second floor of an under-construction house while removing centring at a site in Gejjagadahalli village near Nelamangala on Sunday. The fall caused severe bleeding, leaving him critically injured before he could be rescued.

The deceased has been identified as Beerappa (34), a resident of Gopalpur village in Yadgir district, who had been working in the area for the past eight years.

He is survived by his wife and two children, who depended on him for their livelihood. Beerappa was also known for providing work opportunities to hundreds of fellow labourers in the region.

A case has been registered at Madanayakanahalli Police Station in connection with the incident, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Fraudsters dupe businessman of ₹1 crore in Crypto scam

A city-based businessman has alleged that he was cheated of ₹1 crore in a cryptocurrency investment after being lured into purchasing USDT (Tether) through fraudulent promises.

According to the Cyber Crime Police Station, Bengaluru City, the complainant, a resident of Vyalikaval, stated that between January 31 and February 3, 2025, he was approached by a man identified as Lakshman of Madurai, Tamil Nadu, who persuaded him to invest in USDT via a wallet address.

Subsequently, another accused, Suresh Patel of Mumbai, Maharashtra, assured him that if he bought USDT in bulk, he would get it at a discounted rate. Believing their claims, the victim arranged `1 crore in cash, partly collected from a friend and handed it over during a meeting at Electronic City, on April 30.

However, the promised cryptocurrency was never transferred. Realising he had been duped, the victim approached the police.

Based on his complaint, a case has been registered under the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Further investigations are underway.

Bus committee set to usher in periodic, predictable fare hikes

New public transport fare regulation committee promises transparent, scientific, and regular ticket revisions, aiming to replace politically delayed steep hikes

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Commuters in Karnataka may have to prepare for periodic bus fare hikes as the state government has constituted a Public Transport Fare Regulation Committee (PTFRC) on the lines of the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). The move is aimed at ensuring scientific and timely revisions in ticket prices, reducing the burden of steep, one-time hikes every 8–10 years.

Until now, fare revisions in state transport corporations were sporadic and often influenced by political considerations. For instance, the last fare hike for BMTC was in 2014, while other state transport corporations revised fares in 2020. In the meantime, operating costs have almost doubled. Daily diesel expenses have risen from ₹7 crore in 2014 to ₹13 crore in 2025, while staff costs have jumped from ₹6 crore to ₹12 crore per day. Officials warn that without regular fare adjustments, transport corporations could slip into financial distress, compromising efficiency and sustainability.

Officials stress that predictable fare revisions will help maintain balance—ensuring corporations remain viable while commuters face manageable, gradual increases in ticket costs

According to sources, the PTFRC will function independently, insulated from political pressure. It will be headed by either a retired Additional Chief Secretary of the government or a retired judge of the Karnataka High Court. The panel will also include a retired government secretary with legal expertise, an industry or financial expert, and the Managing Director of KSRTC, who will act as the Member-Secretary.

The committee's mandate is to study the financial health of transport corporations and recommend fare revisions as required. It can also propose surcharges or additional levies to strengthen operations. Recommendations will be submitted annually to the state government, which must place them before both houses of the legislature between April and December.

For commuters, the system means smaller but more frequent fare hikes instead of steep, sudden increases. Officials believe this approach will lessen the burden on passengers while maintaining the financial stability of bus corporations.

Shobha, a garment worker, said she has often struggled to cope with abrupt fare increases. "Every few years the fares go up suddenly, and it becomes difficult for people like me who depend on buses daily. If the increases are gradual, it will still pinch, but at least we can plan our monthly expenses better," she explained. Ramesh, an IT professional, voiced concerns about affordability. "I understand that costs are rising, but public transport should remain affordable. The government should balance efficiency with affordability, otherwise people will shift to private vehicles, making Bengaluru's traffic worse." With the PTFRC now in place, Karnataka's bus commuters may need to brace themselves for regular adjustments—modest in size, but steady in pace.

Diesel and staff costs have nearly doubled, forcing Karnataka to introduce a fare regulation committee for predictable, gradual hikes, offering financial relief to corporations while moderating commuter impact

Residents, GBA unite to erase 25-year-old Domlur black spot

On World Clean-Up Day, residents and civic teams cleared decades-old waste, proving united efforts can reclaim neighbourhoods from neglect and filth

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

On the occasion of World Clean-Up Day, residents from Victoria and Victoria Heaven's, along with neighbourhood volunteers on Saturday joined hands with GBA engineering, health, pourakarmikas, and marshals to carry out a much-needed cleaning drive at Krishna Reddy Colony, Domlur.

Volunteers successfully cleared several black spots that had remained unattended for over 25 years. Shivakumar V, speaking to Bangalore Mirror, said the effort was possible only after special permissions were granted, as the area falls under defence limits. "A heartfelt thank you to all the dedicated volunteers, pourakarmikas, GBA engineering and health officials, and everyone who supported this initiative. Together, we've given the area a fresh new look and taken one more step toward a cleaner city. We will continue to keep our neighbourhoods clean and green, inspiring others across Bengaluru," he said.

Residents, too, expressed relief at finally seeing the area transformed. A resident from Patel Rama Reddy Road, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the sight of waste being dumped there for decades had driven locals to act. "Over 20 residents pitched in to make this possible. If each of us keeps the outside of our homes and localities clean, the city will be clean too. The Corporation can clean it once, twice, even thrice, but only we can ensure it stays that way," the resident said.

Adding perspective, Odette Katrak, co-founder of Beautiful Bharat, said the drive carried added significance as it coincided with World Clean-Up Day, a global citizen-driven movement to reclaim public spaces. "It is amazing that so many residents came forward. The garbage here wasn't just an eyesore—it was a health hazard, with everything from plastic and glass to mattresses and even a refrigerator dumped here," she said.

Volunteers successfully cleared long-neglected black spots, transforming Krishna Reddy Colony's streetscape into a cleaner, healthier neighbourhood after decades of waste.

Echoing similar sentiments, civic enthusiast Vinod Jacob stressed that such efforts highlight the importance of citizen participation in keeping the city clean. "The key is to maintain public spaces so that black spots don't return. CCTV cameras should be installed and fines imposed on those who dump garbage—whether households or businesses. The GBA must also work closely with ward sabhas, resident welfare associations, and Kasa Mitras to strengthen waste management systems," he said.

The drive ended with resident's hopeful that sustained community action, coupled with official support, will help Domlur and the rest of Bengaluru stay cleaner in the long run, while also fostering a sense of shared civic pride.

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Pothole peril

Arekere

Potholes along Bannerghatta Road, from Cinepolis to Arekere signal, including TITAN and A2B, endanger commuters' lives.

Sewage menace

Balepet

Persistent sewage overflow troubles residents and shopkeepers on Balepet Main Road.

Waterlogging woes

Manyata:

For six months, waterlogging and potholes have plagued the Outer Ring Road stretch near Manyata Tech Park.

No special treatment for govt

The Supreme Court has ruled that condonation of delay cannot be treated as a routine exercise, setting aside a Karnataka High Court order that had allowed the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) to file a second appeal in a partition suit after a delay of 3,966 days.

A bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan held that the State or its instrumentalities cannot claim preferential treatment under Section 5 of the Limitation Act. "Governmental litigants, no less than private parties, must demonstrate bona fide, sufficient, and cogent cause for delay. Absent such justification, delay cannot be condoned merely on the ground of the identity of the applicant," the bench observed.

The court underscored that constitutional courts must avoid condoning delays on "frivolous and superficial grounds" and insisted that State agencies must prove vigilance and good faith before seeking leniency. "Procedure is a handmaid to justice, as is famously said. But courts, and more particularly constitutional courts, ought not to obviate procedure for a litigating State agency, which equally suffers the bars of limitation," the judgment stated.

Warning High Courts against acting as "surrogates for State laxity and lethargy," the bench noted that private litigants often bear the brunt of prolonged litigation when decrees in their favour are stalled for years.

In a strong caution to High Courts, the bench reiterated that reopening matters with inordinate delays only "adds insult to injury," particularly in second appeals under Section 100 of the Code of Civil Procedure, which are already restricted to questions of law.

IN COURT

The Supreme Court overturned the Karnataka High Court's March 21, 2017, judgment and upheld the decree in favour of Shivamma (since deceased), represented by her legal heirs, concerning 9 acres and 13 guntas of land. The Principal Civil Judge (Junior Division), Kalaburagi, has been directed to execute the decree within two months.

Along with the costs of Rs 25,000 earlier imposed by the High Court on the KHB, the Supreme Court levied an additional Rs 25,000, to be deposited with the Karnataka State Legal Services Authority within four weeks. **–BMB**

All equal before law, says HC

The Karnataka High Court has directed the Mandya district administration to rehabilitate slum dwellers displaced from the periphery of the Kalikamba temple in Mandya city, while strongly upholding their constitutional right to equality and dignity.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, dismissing petitions filed by certain devotees and a review plea by the Kalikamba Temple Committee, observed that no citizen can be relegated to a second-class existence. "The dignity of slum dwellers is no less sacred than that of the devout. The rights of one cannot be secured by the suppression of the other. The Constitution of India knows no hierarchy of human worth; all are equal before its gaze," the court stated.

The dispute traces back to a 1979 government notification to rehabilitate slum dwellers in Mandya city, which included the area around Sri Kalikamba Temple, then known as Kalikamba slum. In 2003, the temple committee requested the relocation of 23 families to housing built under the Ashraya scheme. A settlement was formalised in 2013 through court proceedings.

However, in 2018, a final notification declared 20 guntas of land in the locality as a slum, prompting devotees and later the temple committee to move the High Court. The committee argued that the settlement needed reconsideration as the slum's proximity to the temple would affect its sanctity and infringe on the religious sentiments of devotees under Article 29 of the Constitution.

Rejecting these claims, Justice Nagaprasanna said the committee, having voluntarily entered into a settlement, could not now disown it. He criticised the attempt to portray slum dwellers as "lesser beings" and called such views "appalling" in a modern constitutional society.

"The notion that the divine aura of a temple could be diminished by the proximity of humble homes or sullied by the entry of a slum dweller bespeaks a mindset steeped in prejudice and exclusion," the court observed, adding that the sanctity of a temple cannot be undermined by the presence of people living beside it. **–BMB**

Lake revived, but problems still flow

Despite Vibhutipura Lake having undergone rejuvenation twice, unchecked immersion of idols and disposal of puja items threaten lake's ecological health

Ganesha idol, allegedly made of PoP, was found to be immersed in Vibhutipura Lake

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

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To facilitate the immersion of Ganesha idols, authorities have constructed both permanent and temporary immersion ponds across the city. The former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), now operating as the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), allocates crores of rupees annually for building these ponds, managing idol immersion, and cleaning the sites post-festival.

This significant expenditure aims to discourage idol immersion in rejuvenated lakes—water bodies that have themselves been restored through substantial public investment. Despite these efforts, some individuals continue to immerse idols directly into lakes, disregarding the environmental impact of their actions.

Vibhuthipura Lake has undergone rejuvenation twice—first by the BDA in 2012 at an estimated cost of Rs 2.5 crore, and again by the BBMP in 2019, investing approximately Rs 3 crore. Additionally, the BBMP Lakes division, now functioning as the Bengaluru East City Corporation, constructed a sewage treatment plant to support the lake's ecological health.

This year, residents expressed joy at the return of vibrant birdlife, a sign of the lake's improving condition. However, the lake remained dry last year for reasons not publicly clarified by the authorities concerned.

Residents' hopes for a clean and thriving lake environment were dashed recently when a group was found immersing a large Ganesha idol in Vibhuthipura Lake under the cover of night. How they gained access by opening the gate remains unclear. Equally troubling is the apparent lapse by the festival organisers, who failed to notify the authorities.

Yagna Venkat, a lake volunteer, noted that Ganesha immersions in Bengaluru often span several weeks, sometimes extending beyond a month. Venkat explained that the temporary immersion pond is maintained diligently for the first 15–16 days. However, once it is closed, issues arise annually—some groups continue to immerse idols randomly, leaving behind remnants that linger in the lake and cause long-term environmental damage. "I request authorities to have either a proper solution like the immersing pond to be available for longer or provide alternatives for the groups who need to immerse idols," said Venkat.

Residents and volunteers urge authorities to provide immersion ponds for longer duration, suggest strict vigilance to curb pollution of lake

Expressing concern over the negligence of the authorities in protecting the lake, Devendra Kumar G, a kere mitra, remarked that officials consistently fail to share data related to the lake's condition and management. "We do not have access to the data pertaining to the name of the contractor, budget allocated for lake maintenance and who gave permission to immerse Ganesha idol in the lake. If we are informed, it will be easy for us to support home guards who are posted at the lake," said Kumar.

Nisha Nair, a volunteer, said that more areas in the lake are getting polluted each day, with waste being dumped carelessly into the lake. "The immersion of idols and disposal of puja items are further deteriorating the lake's water quality. The security guards are not adequately equipped to handle miscreants who damage or pollute the lake," said Nair. She added that the large area requiring monitoring makes the current number of guards far from sufficient. She pointed out that the limited CCTV camera coverage fails to provide effective surveillance or deterrence. She warned that if this situation continues unchecked, it could lead to the complete degradation of the lake, depriving the community of a vital natural resource, green space, and wildlife habitat.

Bengaluru East City Corporation Executive Engineer (Lakes) was not available for comment.

Waiver fails to move tourists

The Karnataka government's announcement of a Dasara-period tax exemption for inter-state tourist vehicles has largely failed to deliver due to poor planning and weak publicity. The waiver, meant to exempt vehicles from the steep Rs 30,000–35,000 entry tax between September 22 and October 2 for travel to Mysuru and KRS Dam, was announced at the last minute. As a result, it was not effectively communicated to neighbouring states, which send thousands of visitors annually. Travel operators argue that tourists cannot make last-minute plans, leaving the scheme ineffective. Industry bodies insist the waiver should have been promoted months in advance. **–BMB**

App redefines citizen services

The Karnataka One mobile app, launched on September 5, 2023, has quickly grown into a trusted digital hub for public services. Developed and managed by the Directorate of Electronic Delivery of Citizen Services (EDCS), the app was designed to provide seamless, transparent, and hassle-free access to government services. Citizens now save time and effort, avoiding multiple visits to different offices. So far, more than 1.43 lakh users have availed services such as electricity and water bill payments and property tax submissions. Officials confirmed that additional features, including ticket booking for cultural programmes, will soon make Karnataka One a comprehensive one-stop platform for all citizens. **–BMB**

Rail crossings to get bridges

The Railway Ministry has unveiled a major plan to ease Bengaluru's traffic snarls by eliminating all 175 level crossings within a 100 km radius over the next three years. Minister of State for Railways V Somanna announced that these crossings will be replaced with road underpasses (RUBs) or overbridges (ROBs), addressing long-standing public demands. Frequent gate closures at crossings currently cause severe traffic bottlenecks, inconveniencing commuters. Tenders have already been floated for 24 projects. The Centre will fully fund the initiative, while close coordination with state agencies will be ensured to prevent delays. **–BMB**

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Road rumble

A Sakleshpur man who blocked a public road with a makeshift vegetable stall was handed an unusual punishment—four days of cleaning the local police station's trash. Ordered to work two hours daily, Hayat Khan now faces court-supervised civic service, with the term extendable if found inadequate.

Road rescue

Congress in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala pushed Bengaluru's crumbling roads into the political spotlight, urging CM Siddaramaiah's government to fix potholes and restore civic pride. At a high-level meeting with ministers, he stressed infrastructure upgrades must be top priority before the city becomes a byword for chaos.

Chopper chic

Minister Satish Jarkiholi flaunted his brand-new, crash-safe helicopter at Jakkur aerodrome, sharing photos and videos online. The double-engine, five-seater ride has sparked political chatter, with insiders hinting it's less about luxury and more about gearing up for statewide election campaigns.

Chopper drama

Jarkiholi's flashy new helicopter stirred political gossip after his inspection in Bengaluru, with allies suggesting the move signals election readiness. While the minister showcased high-tech safety features, colleagues like M.B. Patil clarified that recent cabinet meetings remained smooth, despite media rumours of discord.

Pothole panic

Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh stormed through Bengaluru's pothole-ridden roads, issuing one-week deadlines to civic officials. From Silk Board to Panathur, she demanded immediate fixes—pothole-free roads, de-silted drains, spruced sidewalks—warning that lethargic officers failing to deliver would face swift dismissal.

Bus fire blame game

Amid recurring electric bus fire scares, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy shifted accountability toward the Centre. He clarified that the Union government owns the buses, private firms maintain them, and Karnataka merely oversees operations—leaving responsibility bouncing between Delhi and Bengaluru whenever sparks fly.

—Sridhar Vivan

More training sessions on waste management needed

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2,000 facilities in the red

Interestingly, a report submitted by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to the National Green Tribunal last year showed that more than 2,000 healthcare facilities in Karnataka did not comply with the Bio-Medical Waste Management (BMWM) Rules. The report highlighted that while the state has 48,431 healthcare facilities, 2,075 violated the rule in 2022. However, show-cause notices and directions were issued only to 667 facilities.

While hospitals are rampantly violating rules around proper and scientific management of this hazardous waste, there is still an astounding gap between the amount of BMW waste being generated and treated in Karnataka.

Between January and December 2024, hospitals across the state generated 74,443.3 kg of biomedical waste every day. However, only 55,923.24 kg of this waste were treated, leaving a gap of 18,520 kg of this hazardous waste. This totals to more than 6,500 tonnes of BMW not being treated annually, with the majority of this waste reaching landfills, leading to health hazards.

Out of the total biomedical waste generated in Karnataka, Bengaluru contributes to more than 46%. In 2024, while Bengaluru Urban generated 31,356.07 kg per day of BMW, 2,897.54 kg/day was generated in Bengaluru Rural.

These numbers have been highlighted by KSPCB in a report filed with the Central Pollution Control Board on September 11.

The report also underlines that in 2024, the state pollution control board conducted 89 workshops and training regarding the management of biomedical waste.

As per the BMWM Rules, 2016, training for all healthcare workers involved in biomedical waste management should be provided by healthcare facilities, Common biomedical waste Treatment Facilities operators, and state pollution control boards. The idea behind the training is to sensitise healthcare workers and improve the collection, segregation, processing, treatment, and disposal of these biomedical wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Experts say, given the big gap between generation and treatment, along with a large number of hospitals still not following the rules, the number of training sessions by KSPCB on the subject should be higher to ensure behavioural changes.

Karnataka currently has 59,980 healthcare facilities.

With limited staff, foolproof monitoring not possible

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dispersed the inmates, and shifted the injured to the hospital inside the prison complex.

Two FIRs have since been registered, one internally under prison rules, allowing disciplinary measures such as solitary confinement or withdrawal of privileges, and another at Parappana Agrahara police station, bringing the case under the Indian Penal Code. By pursuing both routes, authorities have underscored that the incident goes beyond a routine fight and warrants criminal action.

Objects of worry

The most troubling aspect of the clash was the use of a sharp weapon inside a facility where contraband is meant to be rigorously checked. Its presence raises two concerning possibilities: either it was smuggled in with outside assistance, or it was crudely fashioned by inmates using materials available within the barracks. Either scenario underscores serious gaps in surveillance, frisking, and routine checks. The fact that the assault occurred near an unguarded staircase further highlights blind spots in monitoring and supervision within the prison.

Sources in the prison department told BM that the fight did not appear to be the result of a long-standing rivalry, but rather a sudden argument that escalated into violence. "This was not a planned rivalry but an argument that unexpectedly spiralled out of control. The sharp objects used were improvised from metal plates provided for meals, which some inmates had sharpened.

While barrack-wise checks are conducted, the high inmate population relative to limited staff makes constant monitoring challenging," the sources said. Open areas and work assignments also give inmates access to stones and other materials, which can be misused as weapons.

The incident has prompted an ongoing investigation, with statements from inmates and staff being recorded to piece together the exact sequence of events.

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I, KESHAV NAGAR NAYAK S/o ANANTHESWARA NAYAK R/o 127, 8th cross Ananth nagar 1st phase Electronics city 2nd phase Bangalore-560100. do hereby declare that I am also known as KESHAV NAYAK vide affidavit dated: 17/09/2025 Before Notary B. PRASANNA Bangalore.

I Venkatalakshmi W/O, Narayanappa N R/o #454, 10th Cross, Srigandhanagar, Hegganahalli, Bengaluru - 560091 have changed my name to Venkatalakshmamma.

I, VARUN KHURANA S/O, Lalit Kumar Khurana R/o B-85, Swagat City, Adalaj-382421 and residing at 12- A2, Monarch Aqua, K.R. Puram, Bengaluru - 560036 (Vide Affidavit 851/79 dated 19 Sept 2025) have changed my name to VARUN KUMAR KHURANA for all purposes.

I, Arun Singh Kuswhaha S/o. Kailash Nath Singh Kushwaha, R/o. # 734, Flat No.102, 2nd Main Road, ITI Layout, Bangalore 560068. I have changed my name as "Arun Singh Kushwaha" in all documents for all purposes wide Affidavit No: IN-KA48517693535315X.

I Ramya Sadashiva D/O, C Sadashiv R/o 1048, 10th Main Road, 2nd Stage West Of Chord Road , Bangalore 560086 have changed my name to Ramya Sadashiv.

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GUJARAT RAJASTHAN* 12/16*/25 DAYS
OCT:10* 28 NOV: 14,14* 17, 21* DEC: 3, 8, 12*, 17, 21, 26*

ASSAM MEGHALAYA/ARUNACHAL PRADESH* 13/19* DAYS
OCT: 31, 31* NOV: 3* 7, 14, 14* 21,21*, 28, 28* DEC: 5, 5*,12

MADHYA PRADESH 15 DAYS OCT: 31 NOV: 14, 28 DEC: 5, 12,19

OMKARESHWAR MAHAKALESHWAR UJJAIN 8 DAYS
OCT: 21, 28 NOV: 4, 11, 18, 25 DEC: 9, 16, 23, 30

ಮಹಾಕಾಳಿ ಜ್ಯೋತಿಷ್ಯ ಫಲ

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9844666906

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BM SIMPLY PUT

H-1B Visa fee explained: What Indians need to know

Confusion. Clarification. Consequences.

What did the Trump administration announce regarding H-1B visas?

The Trump administration on Saturday issued a proclamation introducing a USD 100,000 fee for H-1B visa petitions. This caused panic among Indian professionals, as it was initially believed to apply to all visa holders, including renewals and re-entries.

What exactly has changed in the H-1B visa policy?

According to the latest clarification, this fee will apply only to petitions filed after September 21, 2025, and does not affect existing H-1B holders, renewals, or those with already approved visas. The clarification from USCIS and the White House eased panic among Indian professionals who initially feared the charge would apply across the board, including for re-entry and extensions.

Who will not be impacted by this fee?

Current H-1B visa holders, whether they are in the US or temporarily abroad, are not required to pay this fee. Those applying for renewals or who already have approved petitions also remain unaffected. The policy is forward-looking, meaning only future applicants in upcoming lottery cycles will be subject to the USD 100,000 charge, and even they will pay it only once at the time of petition filing.

Why did the initial announcement cause so much panic among Indians?

The proclamation was announced with very little notice, which led to widespread confusion. Many H-1B holders and their families feared they might be charged if they re-entered the US after travel, and some even cancelled flights or rushed to return within 24 hours. Immigration attorneys and employers scrambled to interpret the rules, and misinformation spread that even renewals or ongoing petitions could attract the steep fee, creating anxiety among thousands of Indian professionals.

How does this affect Indian IT professionals in particular?

Since around 71–72% of all H-1B visas are issued to Indians, mostly in the technology sector, the policy is likely to disproportionately affect Indian applicants. The higher cost could discourage some US companies from sponsoring Indian professionals unless they are considered extremely valuable, reducing opportunities for fresh applicants. This not only impacts individuals but also the flow of remittances to India and the presence of Indian talent in the US tech industry, which has long relied on skilled Indian workers

What has the Indian government said about the fee hike?

The Ministry of External Affairs has expressed concern and stated that the full implications of the measure are being studied in consultation with Indian industry. The government pointed out that the move may have humanitarian consequences, particularly for families separated or affected by sudden disruptions. It emphasised that the US and India both benefit from skilled talent exchanges and urged that steps should be evaluated keeping in mind the innovation, economic growth, and people-to-people ties that the H-1B programme supports. Indian missions abroad, including the Embassy in Washington, have also issued emergency contact numbers to help affected nationals.

Why is the Trump administration pushing for this policy?

The White House has framed the move as a way to put "American workers first" by discouraging what it calls the misuse of the H-1B programme. Officials argue that some companies flood the lottery system with applications, depressing wages and taking away opportunities from US citizens. By imposing a high upfront fee, the administration hopes only those companies who genuinely need foreign professionals will apply, ensuring that only highly skilled and high-value workers are brought in. Critics, however, see this as an election-year measure aimed at appealing to Trump's political base.

What are experts and diplomats saying about the long-term impact?

A former diplomat has criticised the decision as rushed and poorly thought out, saying the administration is now trying to walk back its initial order under pressure from US employers. He noted that while limiting the fee to new petitions is a relief, the policy still hampers the free flow of skilled professionals, most of whom are from India. He argued that the real issue in the US IT sector is not foreign workers replacing locals, but the rapid pace of technological change that leaves some workers with outdated skills. Employers, he said, need flexibility to hire global talent to stay competitive, and restricting access to Indian professionals may hurt US innovation in the long run.

What does this mean for future H-1B applicants from India?

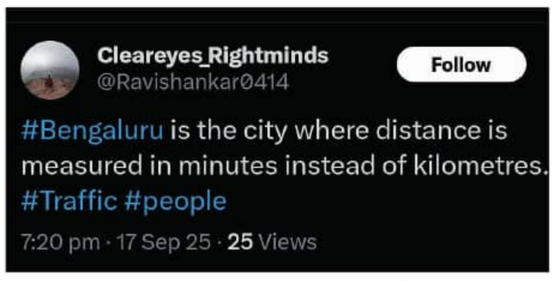
For new applicants, the process will now be far more expensive, as companies will need to evaluate whether a candidate's value justifies the USD 100,000 petition fee on top of existing costs. While the fee is not recurring, it creates a higher entry barrier, which may reduce the number of petitions filed for Indian professionals. Applicants with advanced degrees or unique technical skills are more likely to still be sponsored, but opportunities for entry-level or mid-level professionals may shrink, altering the profile of Indians moving to the US under the H-1B route.

SOCIALTATTLE

THAT WENT VIRAL

A lighthearted food post by Instagram user @smitharanganath has gone viral, sparking a playful debate among Bengalureans over a beloved breakfast staple.

WHAT'S TWEETING: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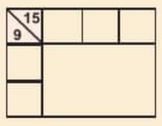

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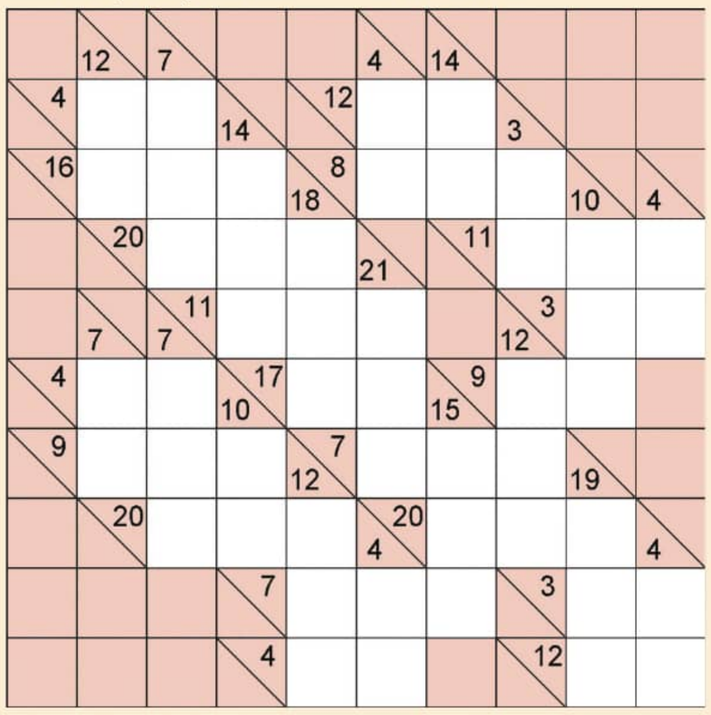
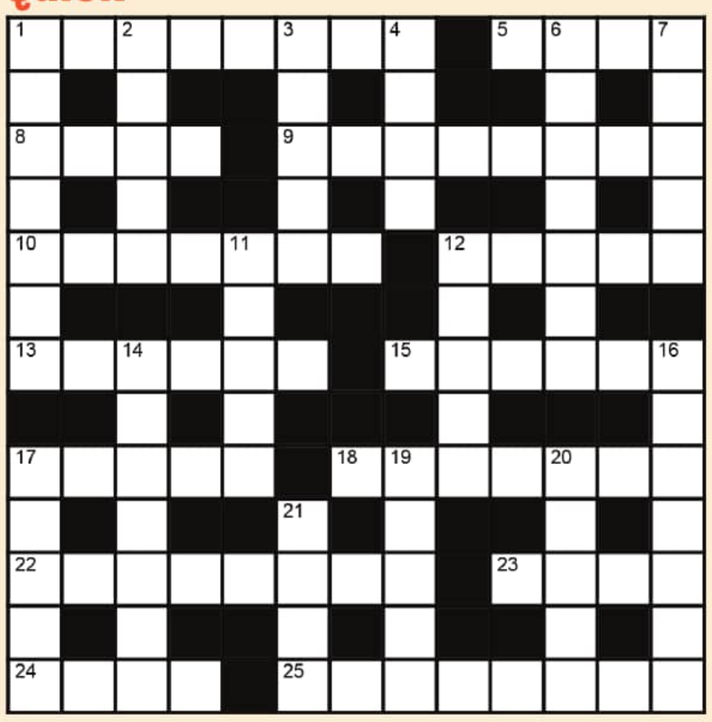


Quick



ACROSS

1 Throw up, regurgitate (8)
5 Shakespearean king (4)
8 Forehead (4)
9 Tehran natives (8)
10 Sewn surgically (7)
12 A strong beer? (5)
13 Fixes a computer programme (6)
15 Repeat mindlessly (6)
17 Venomous snake (5)
18 Small quantity (7)
22 Balderdash (8)
23 Catch sight of (4)
24 Counterfeit (4)
25 Hardened or became bonelike (8)

DOWN

1 Reduced in value (7)
2 Yell (5)
3 Elevate (5)
4 Airline to Tel Aviv (2,2)
6 Inspire with love (7)
7 Start over (5)
11 ___ mortis : hardening of a cadaver? (5)
12 Get on your feet (5)
14 Bangalore based tennis player who won the 2024 Australian Open doubles title (7)
16 Enticed (7)
17 Weathercocks (5)
19 Follows orders (5)
20 Italian isle (5)
21 __ __ uncertain terms : quite emphatically? (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS L

QB QN BIG VZBTSG JH ZFF OSGZBVGNN VJB BJ EG GAZUB.

Linemaro

You light up this room

Mindchow

Take care of your body with steadfast fidelity. The soul must see through these eyes alone, and if they are dim, the whole world is clouded

Joke of the day

If medicine has made so much progress in the last 30 years, how come I felt better 30 years ago?

Loop

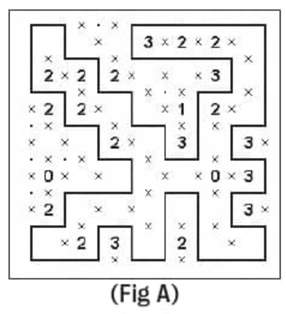
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

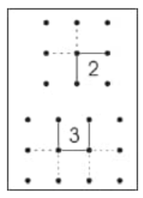
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

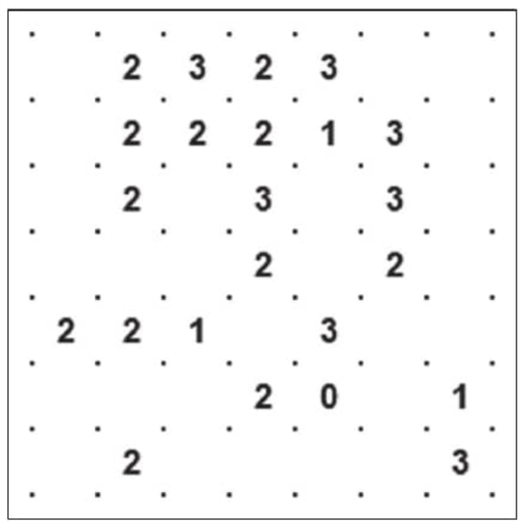
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



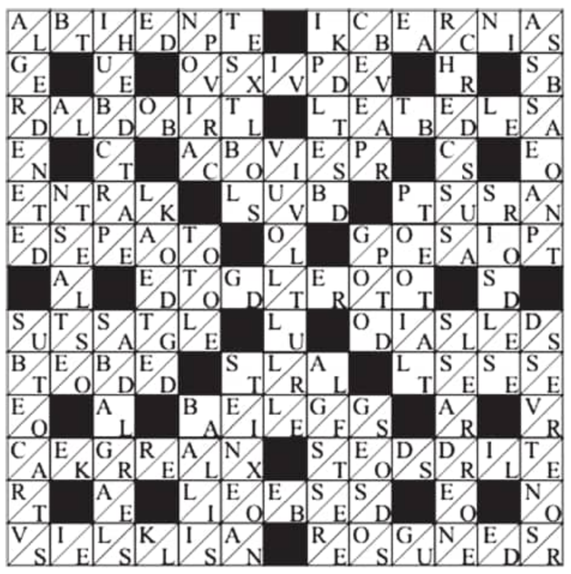
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



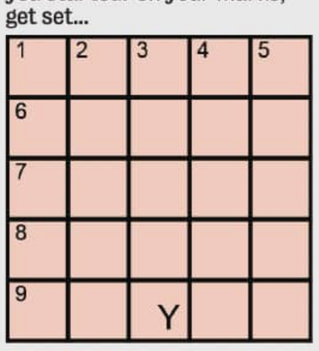
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Fracs; 6 Auger;
7 Nones; 8 Negus;
9 Pesky

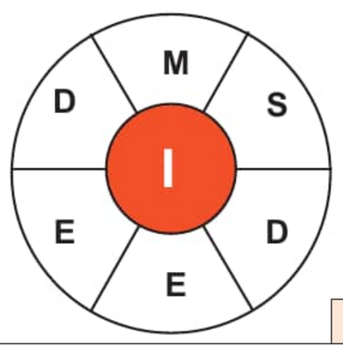
DOWN

1 Snags; 2 Reek C;
3 On Gay; 4 Up urn (3-2);
5 S fees

Mensapuzzle

Which letter completes the puzzle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; **07** Good; **09** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		8	6		7	5		
5								9
1	9		2		8		3	7
8				1				4
			8		4			
6				7				8
9	1		4		5		2	6
2								3
		6	1		3	8		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3

3 5 6 7

Medium = 5

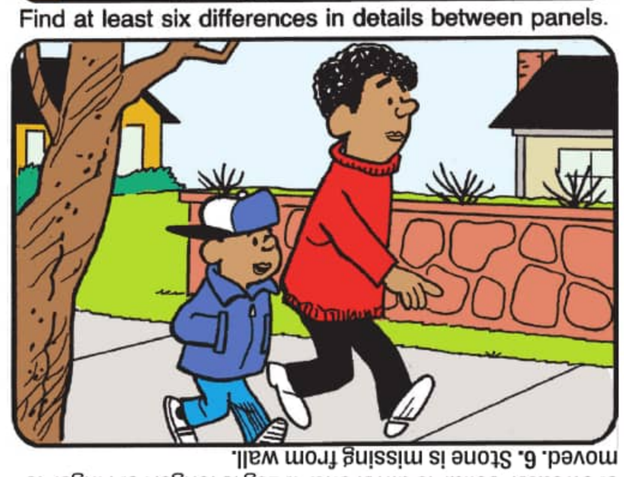
4 5 6 8

Hard = 40

4 5 7 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



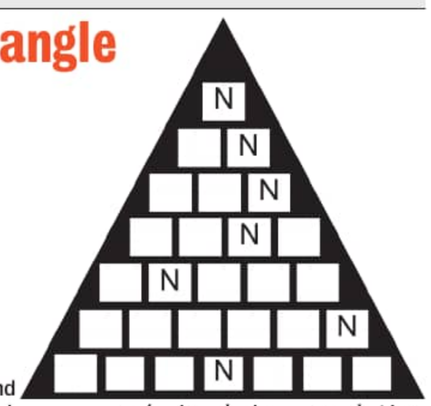
Differences: 1. Arm is not showing. 2. Window is different. 3. Sweater collar is different. 4. Leg is longer. 5. Finger is moved. 6. Stone is missing from wall.

Riddler

What unites these words, with respect to each of their uppercase letters? Eon, tOw, thEre

Alpha triangle

1 One of the poles
2 Not out
3 Cheap can
4 Bits of thread
5 Cove or bay
6 Lend an ear
7 Kitchen item

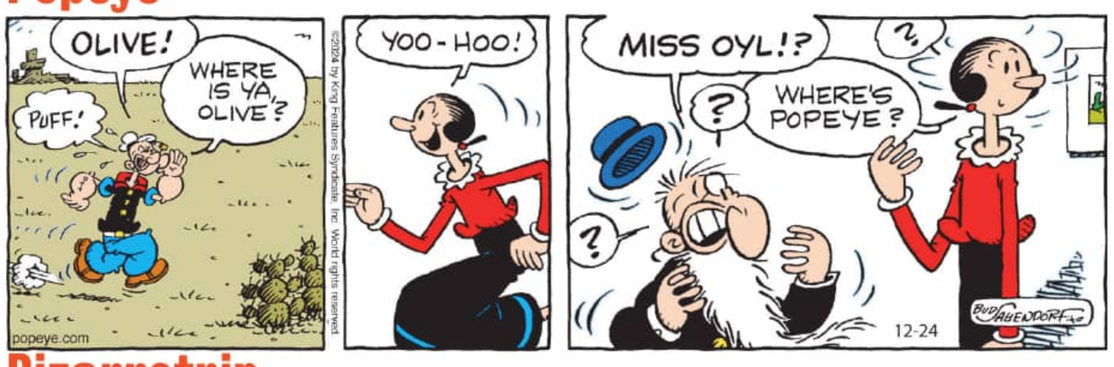


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

No, I don't think I signed a "consent to be cured" form.
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Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THE FALLS BRIDGE PARTY WAS IN FULL EFFECT WHEN MARTIN ARRIVED.
HE SAW A GIRL STANDING AWAY FROM THE FESTIVITIES.
HEY, I'M MARTIN. YOU FROM AROUND HERE?
SONIA. AND YEAH, I LIVE HERE.
SONIA'S DEFINITELY A GHOST, ISN'T SHE?
SHUSH! LET ME FINISH!
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HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL

Crankshaft

AMELIA...
SHOULDN'T YOU BE SHELVING THE NEW BOOKS THAT CAME IN?
I'M WORKING ON MY STAFF PICK FOR NEXT WEEK.
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Mutts

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IF YOU DANCE IT, IT WILL COME.
mutts.com
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WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Your year ahead offers rewarding progress. Finances flourish with disciplined saving and intentional choices. Career development accelerates when you trust your abilities. Love deepens through acts of kindness and active listening. Luck shines during creative pursuits. Tip: Strengthen self-belief, trusting your instincts will guide you toward fulfilling opportunities and help you overcome challenges with grace.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Energy surges, use it to push projects forward. Taking initiative now accelerates progress, bringing you closer to your long-term goals. This determination attracts the right people to support your vision.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Focus on self-care. Prioritize routines that nurture your body and mind, creating balance and resilience. These grounding practices help you approach challenges with renewed strength and emotional stability.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Conversations spark opportunities, share your thoughts with confidence. Networking creates exciting possibilities, strengthening your support system and opening doors to collaborations that advance your personal and professional aspirations.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Emotional connections deepen, spend time with loved ones or express your feelings openly. Vulnerability strengthens bonds, creating harmony and understanding in your most meaningful relationships.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Recognition motivates you. Use this validation to fuel bigger dreams. Your creativity and charisma continue to draw support, helping you turn ambitions into impactful, fulfilling achievements with confidence and purpose.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Streamline tasks to increase productivity. Focus only on what aligns with your long-term goals, allowing you to create balance and make meaningful progress without overwhelming yourself.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Romantic energy flows, show appreciation to someone special through gestures or words. Strengthening these emotional connections brings harmony and deepens love in your personal relationships.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Embrace transformation fully. Let go of past fears, welcoming changes that align with your growth. These powerful shifts open doors to new opportunities and deeper emotional fulfillment in your life.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

New adventures await, explore activities or opportunities that excite you. These experiences broaden your perspective, inspiring creativity and fueling your passion for growth and personal exploration.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Your persistence delivers results. Stay focused on long-term goals, knowing your disciplined efforts are building the future you desire. Every step forward brings you closer to lasting success.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

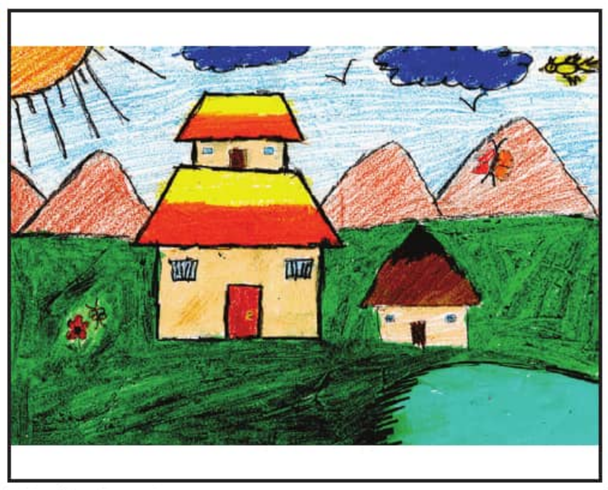
Partnerships thrive, collaborate with those who share your vision. These connections amplify your ideas, turning them into actionable plans that create meaningful impact and progress for everyone involved.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Quiet introspection provides healing. Journaling or meditation helps you release emotional burdens, bringing peace and clarity. This inner work prepares you for the bright opportunities on your horizon.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



R Mugdha, Bengaluru

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Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

$(22½)^{22} / 22^{11} = 22^{11} / 22^{11} = 1$

BULL'S EYE

delism, demise, demised, died, diem, dime, sided

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	R	F
G	E	N	U	S
N	E	O	N	S
A	R	G	U	E
S	K	Y	P	E

RIDDLER

Each is an anagram of a number that is created by moving the last letter of the number (in uppercase) to that position in the word (the first, second, or third).

STRIKE OUT

A	T	H	E	N	E		I	B	E	R	I	A		
G	U		O	X	I	D	E		H		B			
R	A	B	B	I	T		L	A	B	E	L	S		
E		C		C	O	V	E	R		S		E		
E	T	A	L		L	U	D		T	U	R	N		
A		D	O	G		T	R	O	T		S		I	T
A	G	E		U		D	A	L	E		S		E	S
O		A		B	E	E	F	S		A		V		
A	E	G	E	A	N		T	O	D	D	L	E		
T		E		L	O	B	E	S		E		N		
S	I	S	K	I	N		R	O	U	N	D	S		

QUICK

S	H	A	M		O	S	S	I	F	I	E	D		
E		N			N		Y		R		R		E	
N	O	N	S	E	N	S	E		S	P	O	T		
A		A			I		B			A		P		
V	I	P	E	R		M	O	D	I	C	U	M		
		O			O		N					E		
D	E	B	U	G	S		P	A	R	R	O	T		
E		I						T		U				
S	U	T	U	R	E	D		S	T	O	U	T		
A		U			S		L		M			E		
B	R	O	W		I	R	A	N	I	A	N	S		
E		H			A		L		N			E		
D	I	S	G	O	R	G	E		L	E	A	R		

ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, In, Tin , Lint, Inlet, Listen , Utensil.

GO FIGURE

5 - 3 + 7 - 6 = 3
Medium
8 + 6 - 5 - 4 = 5
Hard
4 x 7 + 5 + 7 = 40

SUDOKU

3	2	8	6	9	7	5	4	1
5	6	7	3	4	1	2	8	9
1	9	4	2	5	8	6	3	7
8	3	2	5	1	6	9	7	4
7	5	9	8	3	4	1	6	2
6	4	1	9	7	2	3	5	8
9	1	3	4	8	5	7	2	6
2	8	5	7	6	9	4	1	3
4	7	6	1	2	3	8	9	5

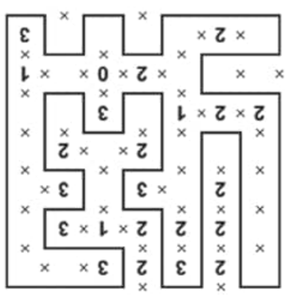
MENSA PUZZLE

J. As you move down, add the number of straight lines in the first letter to the numerical value of that letter to give the next one down.

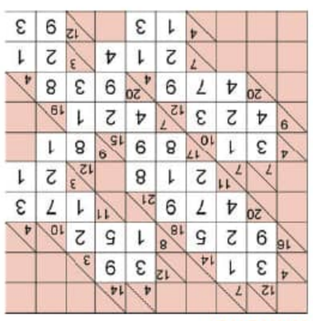
QUOTE UNCODE

It is the nature of all greatness not to be exact.

LOOP



KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 187 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by Lokesh K.V. at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru - 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon - responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

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